MEMORIAL

OF THE

CHIPPEWAY INDIANS

OF

PORT SARNIA, WALPOLE ISLAND, KETTLE POINT, and SAUBLE.

TOUCHING THEIR CLAIM OF THE

GRANT OF £1,000 CURRENCY

PERPETUAL ANNUITY.

To His Excellency the Governor General in Council.

THAT THE FOREIGN INDIANS MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUITY.

LONDON:
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James Jamieson

1871
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PREFACE.

The first point of consideration is this: a written agreement appears to have been executed on the 30th day of June, 1827. On the face of this agreement six names appear, purporting to be the names of chiefs, who signed the aforesaid agreement, proving their concurrence in the agreement. From the appearance of the written agreement, one would fairly presume that everything connected with the affair was done in a fair and proper manner. This agreement then is the first point of consideration, which, if faithfully carried out, would have had a good result, but that not being the case we are compelled to regard it as defective and void. I will now proceed to offer a few remarks upon how the land or property is held among the natives, and in the manner it is disposed of. The Indians, although using the country collectively in a nomadic state, never reduced any portion thereof, to personal enjoyment as a separate estate or property. In fact no Indian ever had any individual separate property at all. Therefore whenever any portion of land wanted for the settlement of the whites, the Indian men, being owners, assembled in Council, and through their chiefs negotiate by treaty for a cession of the land needed; and it is an evident fact that few Indians could not, and did not, possess the power of making any transfer of land. From the fact that the land being held in common to the Indians, the annuity arising from its sale, and must be held in a similar manner before it is paid to the owners. Do we not see it at the present period whenever a requisition is to be signed and sent to the department, calling for a certain amount of money, we assemble in Council, there and then it is openly and frankly read and explained by our interpreters and when a unanimous concurrence is exhibited by the tribe. The chiefs have not till then the power of sanctioning and signing the requisition, and we all know that this has been a uniform method adopted in dealing with the natives of this continent, ever since the white man has established the institution of government among us. Any agreement or treaty to be entered between two tribes, the concurrence of the whole, or at least the majority of each band must first be obtained, otherwise the treaty made in other ways must be void and cannot stand law. This is evidently the course persued—as will appear upon reference to various deeds of cession of lands—ever since the white man has established his institutions of government on this continent, in dealing with the natives, whether by the British, American, Colonial or Proprietary Governments, except perhaps in some exceptional cases, as when any Indian obtains a small portion of land from a tribe as an individual property, which, however, is rarely done. Now the facts in this case, as represented in the deed of cession, show that the Indians in 1827, *through their Chiefs* ceded to the Crown for the sum of £1,100, the large tract of land bordering on Lake Huron and River St. Clair. It is obviously evident that the land was ceded for the benefit of the Indians in general. No one can, I think, contradict the fact and each one should, of course, be entitled to an equal share of the annuity representing the land ceded.

By a perusal of some papers and other correspondence, I find that the Government instructed its agents to collect the Indians to the Reserve of

four miles square, in or near Port Sarnia. Some of them consented, and accordingly took up their occupation in said Reserve, where they now reside. Others declined, preferring to settle on Walpole Island, Kettle Point and Sauble, where they now reside; thus by taking up different locations, they subsequently became separate and distinct tribes, Therefore:—

STATEMENT OF THE CASE.

In the matter of the claim of the Chippeways of Walpole Island, Port Sarnia, Kettle Point and Sauble to a portion of the Eleven hundred pounds currency:

In the year 1827 the Chippeways ceded to the Crown a certain large tract of land for the sum of £1,100, as a perpetual annuity. At an earlier period the said Chippeways were one band—each and every one having an equal right and title to the tract ceded. In fact, the land was a tribal claim, and the present annuity representing it must, of course, be held in a similar manner by those Indians who originally occupied and held the land, for the following reasons:

The Indians, although occupying and using the country collectively in a nomadic state—like all other wandering tribes of uncivilized nations or bands—never individually reduced any part of it to personal enjoyment as a separate property, and never had, in fact, any individual separate estate or property in the land whatever.

Therefore it was not in the power of any Indian, chief or no chief, to make a title to any portion of land—as property—to anybody, and therefore, when lands were wanted for cultivation, the chiefs or head men of the tribes (according to usages and the custom of savages everywhere in America or Africa) met in Council and negotiated with and the consent or the voice of the tribe, whom the chiefs represent, by treaty for a cession of lands needed.

From the evidence of the Walpole Band, Port Sarnia, Kettle Point and Sauble, I find that the Wawanosh's and few members of the Walpole Island signatures appear on the face of the agreement, and they signed the same without the advice and consent of the Band; therefore the said agreement is defective, and void, for the annuity is held in common by Indians, and any disposal thereof, must be done by the Voice of the Indians through their Chiefs.

(*Signed.*) ABEL WAUCAUSH, INTERPRETER.

This is to certify that we, the undersigned members of the Sarnia, Walpole Island, Kettle Point and Sauble Bands of Chippewa Indians, were personally acquainted with the following named chiefs of said Sarnia Band, during their life time, who are now deceased, viz:—

Mashkeash, Nimmekance, Negig, Ogedig, Meshebezhe, Petahlick, Wapagace, Quakegwon, Ozanwib, Chekatayaw, Makadakezhego, who were chiefs of said Sarnia Band during reigns of George III., and George IV., Kings of Great Britain and Ireland, that the said above named chiefs were the original owners of said Sarnia Band, and that the above named chiefs, the lineal descendants from Mashkeash, from the year 1780, up to Nagezhigk, the present year 1871, that he, the said Nagezhigk, is lawful chief of said Sarnia Band, by right of descent in regular succession down from his grandfather, the said Mashkeash. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendant from Nimmekance, from the year 1780, up to Nicholas Plain, the present year 1871, that he, the said Nicholas Plain, is law chief of said Sarnia Band, by right of descent in regular succession down from his grandfather, Nimmekance. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendants from Negig, from the year 1827 up to Thomas Nayahnequod and William Isaac, the present year 1871, &c. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendant from Meshebezhe, from the year 1827 up to James Meshebezhe, the

present year 1871, &c. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendant from Petahdick, from the year 1827 up to Jacob Petahdick, the present year 1871, &c. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendants from Wapagance, from the year 1827 up to Thomas Johnston, James Johnston, and John Johnston, the present year 1871, &c. That the said above named chief, the lineal descendant from Quakegwon, from the year 1827 up to Wilson Jacob, the present year 1871, &c.

And we, the undersigned, do further certify that Puckenas, the father of Wawanosh, late chief of the said Sarnia Band, was never lawfully a chief of said Sarnia Band, for the reasons following:—The said Puckenas emigrated from a band of Indians located at Georgian Bay, Lake Superior, many years ago, and remained with the Sarnia Band one summer and one winter, and then returned to home at Georgian Bay. That soon after his arrival home he killed a number of his band and had to flee from justice, and came back to Sarnia, and there represented himself to be a Metahbick Indian, and asked to be admitted temporally into our band and was admitted, and a tract of land lying east of Sarnia, on a small lake now called Wawanosh Lake was alloted him. At this time no waumpums were given him, in proof of the permanent conveyance of the land, being then considered by the members of our band as a tenant at will. After the death of the said Puckenas, his son, Wawanosh having attained the proper age to act, procured forty quarts of whiskey and presented it to our chiefs, and when they were, by the free use of said whiskey, in an intoxicated state, he, the said Wawanosh, by intrigue and sophistry, prevailed on our chiefs to employ him to act for them in the transaction of business with the Indian Department. He, the said Wawanosh, was never considered our chief by any of our band, he was nothing more than our public speaker or agent in the transaction of our business affairs with the Indian Department.

The above named chiefs, all of whom are opposed to the removal of the Saginaw Indians from our band, or from a proper share of our annuities, as it is proposed and advocated by Wawanosh and a few members of Walpole Island. For the further information of your honor in relation to the statements above made, relative to the doings and representations of the said Wawanosh, we refer you to the matter contained in the accompanying instrument marked A; and, also, that your honor will please to consider the accompanying affidavits of Thomas Nayahnequod, William Isaac, Nicholas Plain and Thomas Kahbenaw, of Port Sarnia; Petahwegezhick, Alexander Johnson and James Joseph, of Walpole Island; Isaac Shahnoo, David Shahnoo and Thomas Johnson of Kettle Point, that the department may more fully understand our wishes, we would respectfully ask your careful consideration of the petitions sent here from Port Sarnia and Walpole Island.

(*Signed,*)	Nagezhighk X	Port Sarnia.
	Thomas Nayahnequod. X	
	Solomon Pahdahsong. X	Walpole Island.
	Alexander Johnston. X	
	Isaac Shahnoo. X	Kettle Point.
	David Shahnoo. X	
	Thomas Johnston X	Sauble.
	James Johnston. X	

(A)

State of Michigan, }
County of St. Clair. }

On this 27th day of October, A. D. 1869, before me, a Notary Public in and for St. Clair County, Michigan, personally appeared, Joshua Wawanosh of Canada, who, being duly sworn, says, he is eighty-three years of age, and the only living child of Puckenas, one of the chiefs who signed the treaty with the United States, at Detroit, Michigan, November, 17, 1807. That the said chief had eleven children, as follows, viz:—Ashquayassing, Joshua Wawanosh, deponent, Otanyannans, Munoayas, Oyahbabiqua, Shagawishwaqua, Frekquahbonnoqua, Majegeshick, Odountoquatoqua, Nebenngoqua, Wagageshick, and Omezhalkwence, all of whom but the deponent are now dead.

That the grandchildren of the said chief are as follows:—Mary, child of Ashquayansing, aged fifty one years; David Wawanosh, dead, Ohmalzenah, Mehanquot, aged fifty-six years, Joseph Wawanosh, aged forty two years, Elizabeth Riley, aged forty-two years, Thomas Wawanosh, aged thirty-six years, and William Wawanosh, aged thirty-four years, children of the deponent, Joseph Wawanosh; Wamegsenna, aged sixty years, child of Menvayas; Ogahbubequn, David Fowler and Elizabeth Burch, aged fifty and fifty-two years respectively, children of Omezhahkwence; Osawib, aged thirty, Oshagemah, aged twenty-eight, children of Odauntoquatrpoe; Frank Wawanosh, aged fifteen years, Julia Wawanosh, aged eleven years, and Weskaegouequa, aged nineteen years, children of David Wawanosh; Jane Wawanosh, aged eighteen years, child of Joseph Wawanosh; Alice Wawanosh, aged fifteen years, Joshua and Ellinor Wawanosh, aged ten and one years respectively, children of Thomas Wawanosh; Charles P. Wawanosh, Augusta Wawanosh, and William E. Wawanosh aged respectively, ten, eight and six years, children of William Wawanosh; James, aged forty years, Wamegeseco, aged ten years, and two girls names unknown, children of Wamegeuma; Louis Burch, aged thirty years, Jane Burch, aged twenty-eight, Baly Burch, aged eighteen, and one girl name unknown, aged twenty-six years, children of Elizabeth Burch; one child, name unknown, of Osawib; five children, names unknown, of Louisa Burch, husband's name unknown; five children, names unknown, of Janies; Alexander Mehanqurt, aged thirty-five; Oguakan, dead; Suzette Wabusogon, aged twenty-five; Nametoka, aged five years, child Suzette Wabusogon. That the three named previous to the said Nametoka, were the children of Ohmahzenah, and two children, names unknown, of Oywokun.

That the above named persons are the only living heirs of the said chief Puckenas, and that their ages have been given as near correct as possible.

Sworn to and subscribed before me Oct. 27, A. D. 1871.
WM. F. ATKINSON,
Notary Public, St. Clair County

His
JOSHUA X WAWANOSH.
Mark.

Also appeared Robert Quasind, who being duly sworn, says he was personally with the said chief Puckenas, and knows the statements of Joshua Wawanosh, contained in the foregoing affidavit, to be the truth. That he is a resident of Canada.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of Oct., A. D. 1869.
WM. F. ATKINSON,
Notary Public, St Clair County.

His
ROBERT X QUASIND.
Mark.

To the Honorable Joseph Howe, Secretary for the Dominion of Canada :—

We, the undersigned members of the Chippeway Band of St. Clair, would respectfully represent:—

1st—That by the grace of God and by the watchful and guardian care Her Majesty's officers, we, the Indian Bands of St. Clair, have for many years past enjoyed peace and quietness, but at the present time, we are much disturbed in our minds on learning that Joseph Wawanosh and William N. Fisher, present Interpreter and Secretary of Walpole Island, have forwarded to you sundry false statements concerning members of our bands, known as the Saginaw Indians, which statements if regarded by you will greatly wrong many of the Chippewa Indians of our Band.

2nd—To oppose the said Joseph Wawanosh and William N. Fisher and their abettors, in their wicked designs, we have this 7th day of July, A. D., 1871, met in solemn council. The substance of our deliberations is, that the members of our Band known as the Saginaw Indians should not be disturbed, for the reason that the said Saginaw Indians have been identified with us since the year A. D. 1837, and have married and inter-married

among us for these many years, have now become inspeakably identified with us, and it would be an act of oppression, at this late day, to separate the descendants of our brothers, the said Saginaw Indians, from our Bands, which your honor will not allow. In support of these statements of ours, we refer your honor to the accompanying affidavits.

3rd—We do now, unitedly and most respectfully, become your petitioners, and ask that their representations to you may be disregarded—for the reasons following :—

1st—He, the said Joseph Wawanosh and W. N. Fisher and their abettors, are the originators of the divisions and troubles amongst us for the past and at present.

3rd—Your petitioners would further say that we are all members of Christian Churches, established on our reserve, and for the benefit of ourselves, and for the Moral and Christian education of our children, we cannot allow a drunkard or profane person to interfere with our domestic affairs.

4th—For endeavoring to remove and eject from our said reserve, the members of this Band known as the Saginaw Indians, received by us by general council, in or about the year A. D. 1837, and approved by the Government.

5th—Your humble petitioners pray,that by you may be speedily removed, the said divisions amongst us.

6th—Your petitioners humbly pray that a proper hearing be granted to them by the Government, and at the same time that you would graciously pardon any improprieties in our feeble manner of addressing you.

Signed by the Council in behalf of the tribe :—

Nicholas Plain, Chief. X	Ottwain Rodd Sr. X	Jabez Nahmabin. X
Jacob Petahdick. X	Ottwain Rodd, Jr. X	Nicholas Petwahnuhquot X
Andrew Nagezhigk. X	Joseph Bread. X	Moses Petwahnuhquot. X
Thomas Nayahuahquod. X	Isaac Stone. X	Jonas Henry. X
George Ashquagonabey. X	William Isaac X	William Henry. X
Wilson Jacob. X	John Kaugaug. X	Jacob Henry. X
John Halfday. X	Albert Rodd. X	Solomon Crow. X
James Halfday X	JamesJohnson. X	Jackson Kenehba. X
Adam Halfday. X	Thomas Johnson. X	Elijah Johnson. X
Robert George. X	Joseph Petahdick. X	Isaac Jackson. X
David Kaugaug. X	Daniel Petahdick. X	John Johnston. X
Ephraim Jackson X	Peter Rodd. X	James Kahchee. X
Peter Gray. X	Elijah George. X	George Kahchee. X
Samson Jackson. X	Luke Pabaumegonce. X	Solomon Jackson. X
Edward Noon. X	Silas Pabaumegonce. X	William George. X
John Isaac. X	Moses Henry. X	James Lion. X
John Crampton. X	Kahzhahgance. X	George Mahnedonce. X
William Cottrell. X	Daniel Nahmabin. X	Lewis Peter. X
Isaac Shahnoo. X	Joel Pewaush. X	John Lewis. X
David Shahnoo. X	Stephen Shahnoo. X	Jeffrey Bressett. X
Shah-kense-shahnoo. X	George Pewannah-kee. X	Sutten Shahnoo. X
Thommy George. X		

County of Lambton. } We, Nicholas Plain, of the Sarnia Indian Reserve,
TO WIT: } in the County of Lambton, farmer; William Isaac, of the same place, farmer, and Thomas Nayahuahquod, of the same place, farmer, jointly and severally make oath and say :—

1st—We are severally acquainted with the nature of an oath and know the purpose for which the present one is taken by each of us.

2nd—We were severally members of the Council "assembled and held at the Sarnia reserve shortly, after the arrival in Sarnia of the American Indians, who, at the invitation of the British Government, came over to Canada, about the year (1837) one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven. At said council it was decided that these said American Indians, and their descendants, should be considered as belonging to our Band, and they should be entitled to participate in the land allotted and the annuity given by British Government to the owners of the said reserve." Some of the Indians who crossed over at said town, in the above year, now reside at Walpole Island, and Kettle Point, and the Sauble in the County of Lambton, but by the act of the above Council, they are entitled to a share of the lands and annuity.

3rd—Whenever anything is done, or any decision arrived at, at any sessions of Council of Indians duly assembled for the purpose, the same is considered final and binding, and we severally considered the one then given in respect to our Brother Indians to be so.

4th—We have respectively heard that a petition is now being presented to the British Government, in which certain allegations are stated, and representations made regarding these American Indians, and that the same are made for the purpose of depriving the said American Indians of what we have always deemed to be their rights, and we severally say that such allegations are false and representations erroneous, and that the said American Indians would be most wrongfully treated, were they in anyway deprived of the privileges and rights given them by the Act of Council above mentioned.

To the best of our knowledge and belief, the statements above made by us, could be supported and verified by at least fifty other members of our said tribe.

Sworn before me in the Town of Sarnia, in the County of Lambton, this First day of August, A. D., 1871, having been first duly interpreted by Able Wancaush and fully explained to the said deponents respectively who severally made their marks thereto in my presence, and having appeared to perfectly understand the same; the said Abel Wancaush having been sworn first only to interpret.

GEORGE RUSSELL,
Reeve for the Town of Sarnia, and Justice of the Peace for the County of Lambton.

His
NICHOLAS X PLAIN.
Mark.

His
WILLIAM X ISAAC.
Mark.

His
THOS. X NAYAHNAQUOD.
Mark.

County of Lambton. } I, Thomas Kahbenaw, of the Sarnia Indian Reserve,
TO WIT: } in the County of Lambton, and Province of Ontario, make oath and say:

1st—I know the nature and meaning of an oath, and the purpose for which the present one is taken.

2nd—At the present time I am about eighty years of age. After the close of the American war of 1812 the British Government extended an invitation to those American Indians who had sympathized with the British and assisted them during that war, to come over to Canada, and they, the British Government, would repay and compensate them for the aid and assistance so given, and I, among other Indians who chiefly came from in and about the City of Saginaw in the State of Michigan, accepted the said invitation. On the arrival of myself and said other Indians in Canada, which

took place about the year one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven, a Council was held by the British Indians, then residing on said reserve, at which an Act was passed by which it was decided that I and said other American Indians, should be received and become, and we were received and did become, forthwith, joint proprietors of and participators in the lands reserved for said British Indians, and the annuities paid them by said British government.

3rd--The said Indians on the Sarnia Indian Reserve, now desire to oust me from the said Reserve, and to prevent my participating in the annuities so paid, on the ground that I am an alien, and in no way entitled to the same; but I say that such ousting and prevention is most wrong and unjustifiable, as I considered that being one of those American Indians, above referred to, the said invitation was extended to me, and it was on the faith of that invitation I left my native land, and further, that as I was made and considered as one of the "Sarnia Reserve" Indians by the decision of the said Council, this should be held as a waiver of anything that may now be urged by the said "Sarnia Reserve" Indians, as a cause to prevent either my participating in the land set apart them by the Government for said Indians, or in the annuities paid, as aforesaid, and which I have received up to the present time, as when any Council of Indians, duly assembled the same is deemed to be strict and binding to all intents and purposes.

Sworn before me at the Town of Sarnia, in the County of Lambton, this First day of August, A D. 1871, having being first duly interpreted by Abel Wancaush, and explained to the said deponent who appeared to perfectly understand the same, and made his mark in my presence thereto; the said Interpreter having been first sworn to duly interpret.

GEORGE RUSSELL,
Reeve for the Town of Sarnia, and Justice of the Peace for the County of Lambton.

THOMAS His X Mark. KAHBENAW.

County of Lambton. TO WIT: On this 13th day of July, A. D. 1871, personally appeared before me, the undersigned, one of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace in and for the said County, Thomas Johnson, an Indian, 51 years of age, Isaac Shahnoo, an Indian, 57 years of age, and David Shahnoo, an Indian, 63 years of age, who being duly sworn by me, deposeth and saith as follows :--

To our own personal knowledge, the Saginaw Indians, in or about the year A. D. 1837, were admitted into the Band of the Chippewa Indians at Sarnia, to become joint proprietors of the Sarnia Reserve, and also the annuities payable to the said Chippewas at Sarnia, and that the said Sarnia Indians, the original owners of the said Reservation at that place, gave them, the said Saginaw Indians, a portion of the same, viz: One half mile in width and four miles in depth, from off the south or lower part of their said Reservation.

Sworn to and subscribed before me, in the said County, the day and year first above written.

ALLEN KENNEDY, J. P.

THOMAS His X Mark. JOHNSON,

ISAAC His X Mark SHAHNOO.

DAVID His X Mark. SHAHNOO.

To the Hon. Joseph Howe, Supt. Genl. of Indian Affairs, &c., Ottawa:

The memorial of the tribe in general of the Chippewa Indians of Walpole Island sheweth:

That your memorialists would suggest the propriety of using your valuable influence for the dismissal of W. N. Fisher from his office of Interpreter, for the following reasons:

1. That by the grace of God, and by the watchful and guardian care of Her Majesty's officers, we, the Indian Bands of Walpole Island, have for many years past enjoyed much peace and quietness; but at the present time we are much disturbed in our minds, on learning that one William N. Fisher has forwarded to you sundry false statements concerning members of our bands known as the Saginaw Indians, which statements if regarded by you will greatly wrong many of the Chippewa Indians of our bands.

2. To oppose the said William N. Fisher and his abettors in their wicked designs, we have this 5th day of July, A.D. 1871, met in solemn council. The substance of our deliberations is, that the members of our band known as the Saginaw Indians, should not be disturbed, for the reason that the said Saginaw Indians have been identified with us and the Sarnia band since the year A.D. 1837, and having married and intermarried among us for these many years have become inseparably identified with us; and it would be an act of oppression, at this late day, to separate the descendants of our brothers, the said Saginaw Indians, from our bands, which your Honor will not allow. In support of the truth of the above statements we beg to refer your Honor to the accompanying affidavits.

3. We do now unitedly and most respectfully become your petitioners, and ask that the said William N. Fisher be removed by you from the office of Interpreter and Secretary of Walpole Island, for the reasons following:

1. The designs of the said W. N. Fisher, in making disturbance among us, are for the sake of gain to himself and abettors.

2. The said Fisher is a drunkard, using spirituous liquors to excess

3 The said Fisher is a designing, wicked man, and a disturber of our peace.

4. He never, in consequence of his immorality, possessed the confidence of our people. Instead of setting a good example before us, since he was placed in the position he now occupies he has given himself up to drunkenness and dissipation, and he is continually leading many of our own people into drunkenness and immorality. Consequently the tribe, through his example is retrograding instead of advancing in civilization. And we would, therefore, pray that you will take this matter into consideration, and in your power remove this grievance from among our people, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

Solomon Pahdaksung. x
Wametogozhence. x
William White. x
Frank Roy. x
James Bird x
Charles Riley. x
Samuel Johnson. x
William George. x
Joseph William. x
John Penance. x
Ah-Sug. x
Kahy-ah-gence. x
Pewamo. x
Alexander Johnson. x
Kewa-co-um. x
Henry Naggs. x
Saw-guch. x
Nawahjegezhegwa-skum. x
Adam Sharlow. x
John N. Miskokomon. x
Menahquod. x
John Naggs. x
Jacob Scott. x

Charles Thomas. x
Thos. Pemah-quahdonce. x
Francis White. x
Madwagonabey. x
James Penance. x
Alexander Madwayosh. x
James Saugee. x
George Naggs. x
John Nahwacodo. x
Peter Jacob. x
Thomas Johnson. x
John Williams x
John Tuhcurbin. x
Ke-ke-nos-wa. x
Thomas Almond. x
Thomas Fox x
Simon Peters x
Frank Williams. x
John Riley. x
Saml. Petahwahmequot. x
John W. Peter. x
M. Ashquabetong. x

James Notie. x
Peter Notie. x
James Weshoe. x
William Naahjee. x
Chaw-me. x
Seedaw. x
Shahbahdees. x
Mah-quah mence. x
John John. x
Henry P. Johnston. x
John Naubay. x
Waube-man ne-doo. x
Ouqua-dan-sung. x
Samuel Pewanoo. x
Joseph Thomas. x
George Tuhcurbin. x
Adam Wau-wau-sum. x
Petewegezhigk. x
Nagonab. x
Sahgoch. x
Joseph Pashegezhigk. x
Penazhe. x

County of Kent, } I, Alexander Johnston, at present residing in Walpole Is-
TO WIT. } land, make oath and say as follows:—

I am fifty-seven years of age, or thereabouts. I was born at the mouth of the River Thames, and am at the present time one of the Council of Walpole Island, where I reside.

It is customary when there is any business of importance to be transacted among the Indians, for the chiefs and warriors to hold a meeting and consultation, and then lay the matter before the Council to decide upon, and in all cases, as a rule, abide by their decision. Without the consent of the Council, the present Indians, who are considered aliens, would not be allowed to receive their annuities. This matter was referred to us some years since, by our late superintendent, Froome Talfourd, Esq., and we then decided that they were entitled to their annuities, and should receive them, as we considered they had been invited over by us to our country, and they became part of us by a special act of Council, at the time they arrived here first

Sworn before me, at the Village of Wallaceburg, in the said County of Kent, this 18th day of July, A. D. 1871. } ALEXANDER His X Mark JOHNSON.

CHAS. P. P. HUTCHINSON,
Comm'r, &c.

County of Kent, } I, Peter Wegezhigh, at present residing on Walpole Island,
TO WIT: } make oath and say as follows:

I know the nature of an oath, and am at the present time about [58] fifty-eight years of age or thereabouts. About the year 1837 I had the pleasure of accompanying my father, a chief, deputised by the Indians of Walpole Island, to visit their brethren residing in the United States and invite them over to Canada, and I assisted him to paddle the Indian canoes over here. The Walpole Island Indians sent over strings of wampum by my father, which I saw with my naked eye inviting them to come. Any agreement made or arrangement entered into when accompanied by wampum is CONSIDERED BY AN INDIAN AS BINDING AS A WRITTEN AGREEMENT IS BY A WHITE MAN. The wampums are not now in our possession, having been taken away by Indians who have emigrated west of the Mississipi River. On the arrival in Canada of these Indians, they were received by Act of Council, and became from that time joint proprietors in the Island, and also participators in the presents and annuities jointly with the Chippewas, and have regularly received them up to the present time.

Sworn before me at the Village of Wallaceburg, in the County of Kent, this 18th day of July, 1871. } PETER His X mark. WEGEZHIGK.

CHAS. P. P. HUTCHINSON,
Comm'r &c.

County of Kent, } I, James Joseph, at present residing on Walpole Island, make
TO WIT: } oath and say as follows: I know the nature of an oath; and am now about thirty-seven years of age to the best of my knowledge and belief. Up to the year 1849, or thereabouts, I received blankets from the British Government. Since that time I have received an annuity from the Government in connection with other Indians (Chippewas) on Walpole Island and the adjoining Indian localities.

During the time Froome Talfourd, Esquire, was Superintendent of the Indians, he notified the Chiefs and principal men on Walpole Island, that any Indians on the Island who did not actually belong there, should not receive any annuity, and ordered their names to be taken off the pay-roll. But the Chiefs and principal men decided that we were admitted by the Act of Council, and that we WERE ENTITLED to participate in the annuities, payable to the said Chippewas. That I

have resided on Walpole Island since the year 1837, and my grandfather fought for the British Government during the war of 1812.

Sworn before me at the Village of Wallaceburg, in the County of Kent, this Eighteenth day of July, A.D. 1871. } JAMES his ✕ mark JOSEPH.

CHAS. P. P. HUTCHINSON,

A Comm'r, &c.

County of Kent, } Catherine Hutchinson, of the Village of Wallaceburg, in the
TO WIT: } County of Kent, maketh oath and saith as follows: I have known the family of Wawanosh for many years since the year A.D. 1833, or thereabouts, when my father, the late William Jones, was Superintendent of Indian Affairs. I am aware that my father always had a deal of trouble with that family, as by reference to the records of the Indian Department will more fully appear. I have also been informed, and believe that Joshua Wawanosh was deposed from his chieftainship many years ago. I also know that the two sons now surviving are not pure Indian blood: that the mother was half French. I am also aware that all the Indians residing on Walpole Island received their presents for years from the Government in the same proportion with the Sarnia Indians, and that my father had less trouble with them, and that they were a more orderly set than the Sarnia Band. I do not think, from my own personal knowledge, that the Wawanosh family have any greater right to the rank of Chief than some on Walpole Island whose names I forget at the present time.

Sworn before me at the Village of Wallaceburg, in the said County of Kent, this 21st day of July, A.D. 1871. } CATHERINE HUTCHINSON.

CHAS. P. P. HUTCHINSON,

Comm'r, &c.

Being requested to do so, I certify that the following deponent petitioners whose names are appended to the foregoing documents